GORDON

GORDON GREENE

Sternwheel packet-tourist steel hull, built in Jeffersonville, IN, by Howard, 1923. Originally named CAPE GIRARDEAU. Greene Line Steamers, Cincinnati (CINN), acquired her from Eagle Packet Co. March 31, 1935. First trip was with tourists. Ran Pittsburgh-CINN accepting passengers and freight Summers 1935-36 and ran tours spring and fall. Twice altered; Spring 1936, a second texas was added and pilothouse raised 28"; texas again altered and pilothouse added two feet in November, 1937. Made a Mardi Gras trip from CINN in 1938, '39, '41 and '47. Was the "family boat" with Captain Tom R. Greene in command, his mother, wife and family usually aboard. A bar was provided on main deck but no liquor sold. Pleasant & healthy atmosphere, and Captain was generous with invitations to "river fans" who rode as guests from here to there, a floating convention center. Hence many youngsters who worked aboard, or who rode for free, grew up from the experience and opportunity. There was never anything quite like this on the river. When the DELTA QUEEN arrived, the GORDON was put in the St Louis-St Paul trade. She was retired at CINN and sold in 1952 to become a floating hotel at Portsmouth, OH, renamed SARAH LEE. In 1964, she was moved to St. Louis. In 1965, Captain John Vize was in the Coast Guard as an enlisted man. While on shore leave in St. Louis, he visited the GORDON GREENE. He remembered being awestruck by the beautiful interior. The key things that caught his eye were the beautiful wood interior trim and the elegant chandeliers. This was a beautiful night club, a place for the high rollers of St. Louis. On December 3, 1967, she sank. Most of the wreckage was cleared out, but in extreme low water, December, 1976, portions of the hull were exposed and photographed. Her whistle reposes in the River Museum, Marietta, OH.

TOURIST BOATS

GOLDEN EAGLE

Sternwheel packet wood hull, built in Jeffersonville, IN, by Howard, 1904. Originally cotton packet WILLIAM GARIG. The GARIG was sold in 1918 to the Eagle Packet Co., St. Louis, greatly altered and renamed. She was entered in the St. Louis/Peoria trade and did well. In 1932, was put in the Cape Girardeau Commerce trade area for about six months. When Eagle Packet sold the CAPE GIRARDEAU to the Greene Line, Cincinnati, in 1935, they renovated the GOLDEN EAGLE into a tourist boat and scheduled her to St. Paul, Chattanooga, Cincinnati, and Nashville. As sort of a presage of coming events, on April 22, 1939, she engaged in a 'remote control' race with the DELTA QUEEN, which was plying the Sacramento River. The GOLDEN EAGLE was judged the winner. Upbound at Chester, IL, on the nite of June 14, 1941, she hit a submerged dike and sank along shore. When the river fell, she was raised. In 1946, was sold to Mr. Dewey Miller, thus ending the Leybe management of Eagle Packet Co. She ran all that 1946 season with a final trip to New Orleans. Sold in March, 1947 to Herman Pott of St. Louis Shipbuilding and Steel Co. On first trip downbound, ran aground on Tower Island and sank.

ABOVE: The GOLDEN EAGLE upbound at the Crescent railroad bridge, just below Davenport, IA, 1939.

RIGHT: The GOLDEN EAGLE sunk on Tower Island, May, 1947.

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